

(Attractive Japan ~ Road to Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025 ~)

H.E. Dr. Nazar Ahari, Director General of Bilateral Political Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, and former Ambassador of Iran to Japan,
H.E. Dr. Hossein Esfahbodi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade,
H.E. Mr. Seyed Ahmad Araguchi, Vice Governor in Exchange Affairs of the
Central Bank of Iran,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all distinguished guests present here for tonight's reception on Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025. It is indeed our great pleasure to have tonight's reception with the participation of high ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade, Chamber of Commerce as well as executives from private companies.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the Japanese companies' hard work, dedication and commitment toward the realization of Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025.

On April 24, 2017, Japan registered its candidature to host World Expo 2025 in Osaka. Japan's two competitors are Russia and Azerbaijan. Although, Iran might have a sense of intimacy with those countries due to factors such as geographical proximity, however, this does not necessarily mean that Japan cannot have such association with Iran. Rather, we think the opposite, considering the affinity toward Japan among the Iranian people. Tonight's reception will allow you to have a better understanding on how attractive Osaka and Kansai are, as we are counting on your generous support.

Allow me to briefly describe some historical aspects of the relation between Osaka and World Expo. The historical relation between Osaka and World Expo dates back to almost 50 years ago. In 1970, 77 countries participated in the World Expo in Osaka, the first-ever Expo held in Asia. This event attracted over 64 million visitors from both overseas and Japan and was a huge success amid favorable reputation.

Since then, nearly half a century has passed. In Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025, we are “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”. By offering an opportunity for creating “a way of healthy life both physically and mentally” and “sustainable social and economic system” along with our global partners including Iran, we would like to contribute to finding resolutions for global challenges.

By making the most out of Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025, we can work together and create a well-developed future society where everybody enjoys the benefits of such developments not only in Japan but also worldwide. I believe tonight’s reception is a great opportunity to further deepen the understanding toward Osaka, Kansai and Japan in general. In this connection, your support for Japan in the election of Bureau International des Expositions in November will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, please enjoy this evening’s presentations along with the Japanese cuisine, which have been prepared by the guest houses of Japanese private companies in Iran.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

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